Supply of anti-terrorism weapons by Russia

3071. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has offered anti-terrorism weapons to India;

(b) if so, the broad features of the agreement in this regard;

(c) the main items of the weaponary to be supplied to the country; and

(d) by when these weapons are likely to be in possession of our country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

India's decision to side with the US on National Missile Defence

3072. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to side with the US on National Missile Defence;

(b) if so, whether one of the main reasons is that it is a tool to contain China;

(c) whether this decision has helped in growing Indo-US ties and India is tapping the US market; and

(d) if so, to what extent this decision has helped India by getting the US defence aid?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Escorting by Indian Navy frigates of US battle ship to Malacca Straits

3073. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that frigates of the Indian Navy escorted the US battle ship to the Malacca Straits for the Afghan campaign; and